

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31, with the following paragraph:

— This application is a continuation of USSN 09/454,498, filed 12/6/99, now US Patent No. 6,268,149, which is a continuation of USSN 08/946,679, filed 10/8/97, now US Patent No. 6,087,100, which is a continuation of USSN 08/709,263, filed 9/6/96, now US Patent No. 5,780,234, which is a continuation of USSN 08/166,036, filed 12/10/93, now US Patent No. 5,591,578. —

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31, with the following paragraph:

— Figures ~~[[1]] 1A to 1H illustrates~~ illustrate possible orientations of electron donor (EDM) and electron acceptor (EAM) moieties on a single stranded nucleic acid. —

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31, with the following paragraph:

— Figures ~~[[2]] 2A-1 to 2A-9 and 2B-1 to 2B-9 illustrates~~ illustrate orientations of electron transfer moieties EDM and EAM on two adjacent single stranded nucleic acids. These orientations also apply when the two probes are separated by an intervening sequence.